

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 were pending. Claims 1, 5, 10, 13 and 22-27 have been amended. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 12 and 14-21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. New claim 28 has been added. Accordingly, upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 13 and 22-28 will be pending.

Claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 13, and 22-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hudgens *et al.* (US 4,737,379).

Independent claims 1, 13 and 22, have been amended to further clarify that the recited carbon-containing component comprises graphite, amorphous carbon, carbon fibers, carbon-carbon composites, or a combination thereof. Support for these amendments may be found on Page 4, lines 17-19 of the application as filed. Claims 5 and 13 have been amended, and new claim 28 has been added, to recite the further limitation that the protective coating has a coefficient of thermal expansion that is less than that of silicon carbide. Support for these amendments may be found on Page 4, lines 7-9 of the application as filed.

The advisory action states that the amendment after final dated April 9, 2004, will be entered for purposes of appeal, however it is not clear if the amendment is entered for the purposes of an RCE. Therefore, the attached request for an RCE includes the request to enter the amendment after-final as well as the attached amendment, in that order.

Hudgens *et al.* (US 4,737,379)

Hudgens *et al.* ("Hudgens") discloses plasma deposited coatings and

a low temperature method of depositing a substantially hydrogen free or controlled hydrogen content multi-element alloy film on an organic polymeric substrate. Hudgens is thus directed to a low temperature coating method for coating organic polymer substrates at temperatures below those at which the organic polymer substrates degrade, e.g., typically 170° C (see, for example, col. 10 lines 24-32).

Hudgens fails to disclose or suggest a protective coating for a carbon-carbon composite material comprising graphite, amorphous carbon, carbon fibers, carbon-carbon composites or a combination thereof; which are known to one of skill in the art as high temperature materials which may retain their properties at temperatures exceeding 800° C. Hudgens thus fails to disclose all the limitations recited in independent Claims 1, 13 and 22, as amended, or the claims that depend therefrom. Accordingly, Hudgens does not anticipate, nor render obvious, the specific combination recited in amended claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 13, 22-27 and new claim 28. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 13, and 22-27 with respect to Hudgens.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action with respect to claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 13, and 22-27 are requested. Applicant submits that claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 13, and 22-28 are now in condition for allowance.

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In the event that the examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact the attorney at the telephone number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Michael A. Shimokaji
Attorney Reg. No. 32,303

Honeywell International, Inc.
Law Dept. AB2
P.O. Box 2245
Morristown, NJ 07962-9806
(310) 512-4886
Attn: Oral Caglar

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Michael A. Shimokaji, Reg. No. 32,303